Vestaro, Anthony
Decatur, Ill

DRAWER 21a

Sculptors-V

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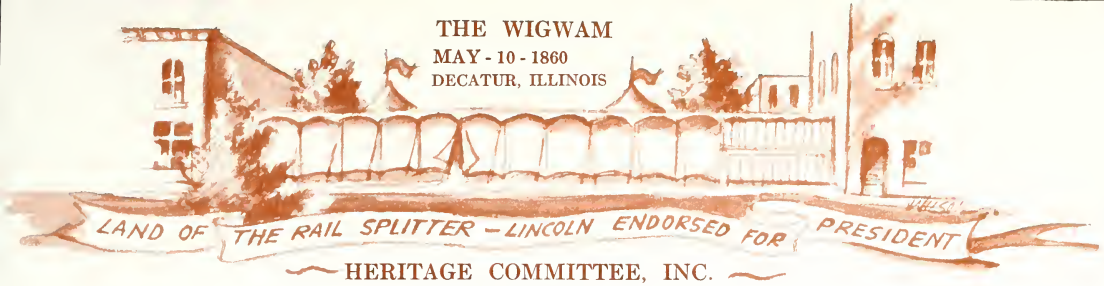
# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

## Anthony Vestuto

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009 085 02871




HERITAGE COMMITTEE, INC.
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

2 - 2 - 70

Mr. Mc Murtry,

Thought you might be interested in the Lincoln Statue in Lincoln Square for which our committee was responsible. Am enclosing the ceremony program for the unveiling Oct 12, 1968.

We are having a ceremony on Lincoln's birthday when the marker will be unveiled. Perhaps you would be interested in seeing a slide – this is my only copy so I would appreciate your returning it.

After the plaque is placed on the base we can get a good closeup for your information

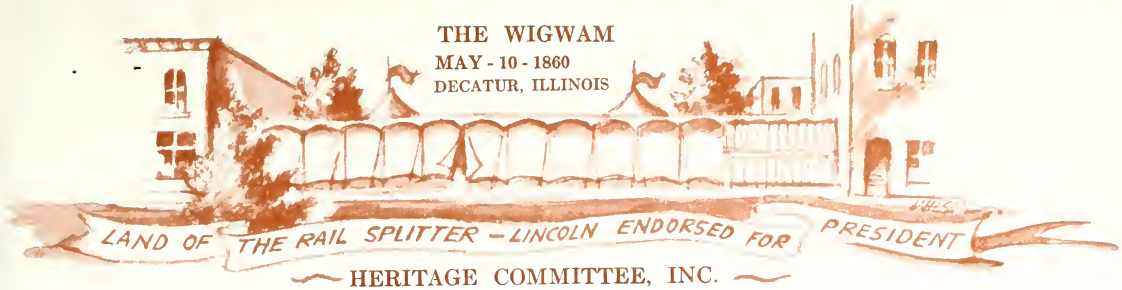
Mr. Berg, the Boy's and director, sent me information re: your fine work – you are to be commended.

I would appreciate having some copies of your total list of statues for our members.

We would enjoy having a representative at our luncheon & ceremony

Sincerely,

Amelia D. Mulrooney,
President, Heritage Committee, Inc
620 Standard Bldg.
Decatur, Ill
428 - 3461

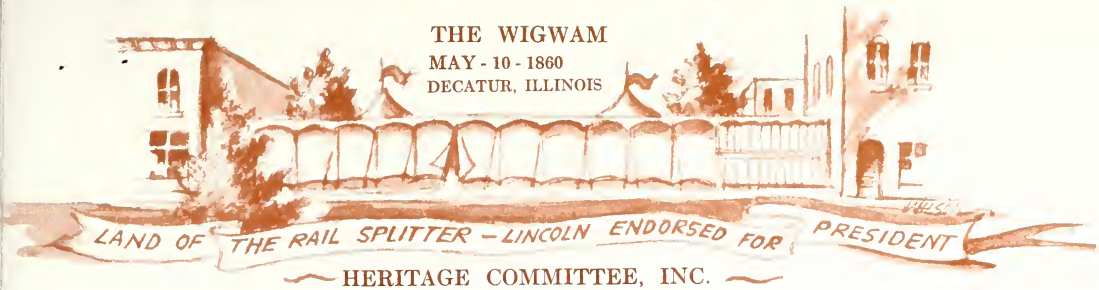



HERITAGE COMMITTEE, INC.
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

*ILLINOIS SESQUICENTENNIAL*
*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1968 - 10:30 A.M.*
*LINCOLN SQUARE*
*DEDICATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATUE*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Master of Ceremonies* | *Webber Borchers* |
| *Presentation of the Colors* | *Representatives of Army, Navy Marine Corps, Air Corps* |
| *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag* | *Boy Scouts* |
| *The Star Spangled Banner* | *Stephen Decatur Red Coat Band Glenn Fair, Director* |
| *Invocation* | *Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Powell St. Patrick Church* |
| *Introduction of Guests* | |
| *Dedication Speaker* | *Ver Lynn Sprague, Director Illinois Sesquicentennial* |
| *Illinois State Song* | *Stephen Decatur Red Coat Band* |
| *Statue Unveiling* | *Charles Borchers Cuttill* |
| *Presentation of Wreath* | *Ruth Mollonan, President, Ladies of G.A.R.* |
| *Comments* | *Anthony Vestuto, Professor of Art, Ill. Wesleyan University Sculptor of Lincoln Statue* |
| *Presentation of Lincoln Statue to City of Decatur* | *Otto Kyle* |
| *Acceptance of Lincoln Statue* | *Mayor James Rupp* |
| *Battle Hymn of The Republic* | *Stephen Decatur Red Coat Band* |
| *Benediction* | *Rev. Paul E. Erickson, First Evangelical Lutheran Church* |

*Amelia D. Mulrooney, President, Heritage Committee, Inc.*
*(Macon County Sesquicentennial Committee) 428-3461*




HERITAGE COMMITTEE, INC.
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

Lincoln's Birthday Celebration

February 12, 1970, 11:00 a.m.

Lincoln Square, Decatur, Illinois

Members of your organization are cordially invited to attend the unveiling and dedication of the plaque that will be placed on the Lincoln statue in Lincoln Square.

To honor our historical past and preserve it for the future, this statue was erected on October 12, 1968 by the Heritage Committee, Inc. of Decatur and Macon County. The plaque has been generously provided by Stephen Decatur Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

At 12:00 noon a luncheon (cost $1.75) will be held in the Victorian Room of the Hotel Orlando. Mr. James T. Hickey, Curator of the Lincoln Collection, Illinois State Historical Library, will be the speaker.

We would appreciate having the name of your representative and office held, as early as possible, so that it may be included in the program.

Amelia D. Mulrooney, President

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Please send your reservations or call: Mrs. R E Mulrooney 620 Standard Bldg Decatur Ill 428-3461

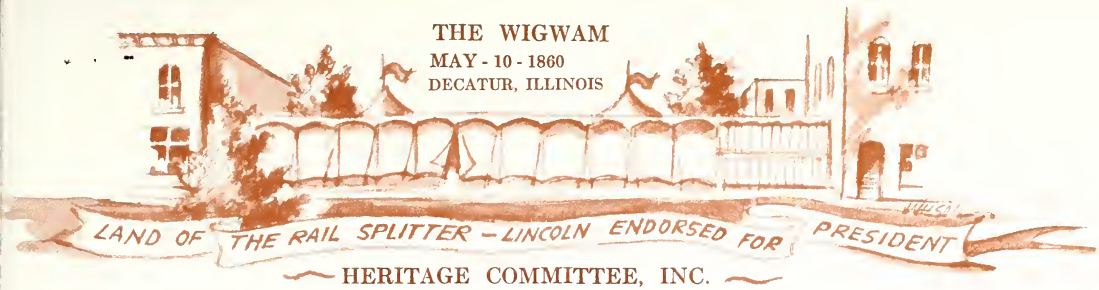
Mrs. J. W. Ramsey
10 Eastmoreland
Decatur, Illinois 62521
429-4865

or

Mrs. Harlin B. Taylor
2358 East Johns Avenue
Decatur, Illinois 62521
428-0617

I am enclosing my check in the amount of $ _____ for _____ reservations @ $1.75 each for the Lincoln Birthday Celebration luncheon, Thursday, February 12, 1970 at the Hotel Orlando.

In the event of inclement weather the above ceremony will be held in the Hotel Orlando lobby.




HERITAGE COMMITTEE, INC.
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATUE
LINCOLN SQUARE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1970 - 11:00 A.M.

| | |
|---|---|
| Master of Ceremonies | Representative Webber Borchers<br>Treasurer, Lincoln Statue Fund-<br>Heritage Committee, Inc. |
| Presentation of the Colors | Representatives of Army, Navy,<br>Marine Corps, Air Corps. |
| Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag | Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts,<br>Troop 82 lead by DAR Flag Chairman |
| God Bless America | Mr. Howard Brown, Supt.<br>Macon County Schools |
| Welcome | Mayor James Rupp |
| Dedication Speaker | Mrs. James J. Hamm<br>Vice President General, NSDAR |
| Marker Unveiling and Presentation<br>to Heritage Committee, Inc. | Mrs. Charles E. Lee<br>DAR Historical Marker Chairman |
| Acceptance of Lincoln Marker | Mr. Otto Kyle<br>Historian, Heritage Committee, Inc. |
| Benediction | Pastor Robert D. Walters,<br>First Lutheran Church |

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FIRST POLITICAL SPEECH

LINCOLN MOUNTED A STUMP BY HARRELL'S
TAVERN FACING THIS SQUARE AND DEFENDED
THE ILLINOIS WHIG PARTY CANDIDATE NEAR
THIS SPOT AT AGE 21 IN THE SUMMER
OF 1830
THIS STATUE ERECTED OCT. 12, 1968 BY
THE DECATUR AND MACON COUNTY HERITAGE COMMITTEE
THIS PLAQUE IS PLACED BY STEPHEN DECATUR CHAPTER
NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FEBRUARY 12, 1970

# LINCOLN'S LINCOLN SQUARE SPEECH

by Otto R. Kyle

In June or July 1830, Abraham Lincoln, then 21 years old, made an impromptu speech on the edge of Decatur's public square, now Lincoln Square. The speech has been acclaimed Lincoln's first speech that got public attention.

Lincoln was barefooted as he came from a near-by farm to join a gathering of poeple in the square listening to a candidate named Posey making an address. The candidate was John F. Posey of Fayette County, a candidate for the state legislature from the district including Macon County. The square was just a year old and still had stumps of trees that had been cut. There was the usual gathering of wagons and horses as well as people shopping and local townspeople living near-by.

The first wide-spread mention of the Lincoln speech in the Square was in William D. Howell's 1860 campaign biography of Lincoln. Howell wrote about 150 words concerning the event without giving a source of his information but the account has been accepted as authentic since Lincoln read the account and he did not make any corrections in it.

Howell's biography account says the listeners, disappointed there was no liquor dispensed, persuaded Lincoln to make a response to Posey. "Lincoln took the stump with characteristic modesty", says the Howell report, "and begging his friends not to laugh if he broke down, treated very courteously the two speakers who had preceded him, discussed the questions of politics, and in his peroriation eloquently pictured the future of Illinois."

John Hanks is reported as having said that he was the one who provided a box to stand on and persuaded Lincoln to speak. Hanks said Lincoln's speech was on the need of navigation of the Sangamon River.

Mrs. Jane Martin Johns in her "Personal Recollections" published in 1912, gives another version of the address. Mrs. Johns came to Decatur in 1849, nineteen years after the Lincoln Square address. There were a number of persons in Decatur who could give her an account of the event. Mrs. Sarah Powers Durfee told Mrs. Johns a story that had been told to her by Mrs. Durfee's mother, Mrs. Almira A. Powers. Mrs. Powers heard the story from Mrs. Landy Harrell who heard Lincoln make the address.

This version of what happened is that Lincoln was working in a field a short distance from the square. Hearing the cheering, he left his oxen in a fence corner and went to the square. He was dressed in a "hickory" shirt, tight tow-linen pants, a straw hat and was bare-footed. Lincoln listened until the speaker finished and then mounted "a splintered stump" and made a speech that pleased the crowd.

The "Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County", published in 1930, repeats Mrs. Harrell's version of the Lincoln speech. Details about what took place vary but there is no doubt about a speech being made by the barefoot Lincoln, a speech William Powell thought important enough to be included in the first Lincoln political biography nationally distributed.

"Herndon's Lincoln", by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik, published in 1889, says John Hanks personally described to him (Herndon) what happened at Lincoln's

"first attempt at public speaking after landing in Decatur". Hanks is quoted as saying that he was the one who turned down a box for Lincoln to stand on.

Carl Sandburg in his monumental history accepted the Herndon version and devoted one sentence to the event.

Reinhard H. Lutin in his 700 page one volume "The Real Abraham Lincoln", published in 1960, says George Close, a "Macon County resident" told about Posey not "treating", that Lincoln spoke of the future of Illinois and that W.L.W. Ewing, future acting governor of Illinois and a U.S. senator, who was present with Posey, declared Lincoln was "a bright one". Luthin calls the Lincoln speech "his baptism on the electioneering stump".

Whatever his exact words, the Lincoln Square speech of 1830, is acknowledged by historians as the real start of the Lincoln political career.

Prepared for the Heritage Committee, Inc. by Otto Kyle, author of "Abraham Lincoln in Decatur", for the occasion of the Unveiling of the Lincoln Monument in Lincoln Square on October 12, 1968.

Amelia Mulrooney, President

Heritage Committee, Inc.

Statue of Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln Square, Decatur, Illinois

by George Cashman

A previous article dealt with the two heroic bronze statues of Abraham Lincoln erected in Decatur, Illinois, one by Lovet-Lorski, and the other by Fred Torrey. Due to the dedicated efforts of a small group of Decatur citizens, banded together under the title "Heritage Committee, Inc.", the city will soon have a third figure of Lincoln in heroic dimensions. When this figure is unveiled on October 12, 1968, Decatur may boast the largest number of such statues, outside of Chicago, in the state.

This writer was privileged to view the plaster model, in the making, at the studio of sculptor Anthony Vastuto at Bloomington, Illinois. It depicts the young Lincoln exercising his well known propensity for making stump speeches, and is an excellent, artistic representation of the subject.

During Lincoln's boyhood days in Indiana he often demonstrated his great urgency for making speeches. He had a very retentive memory, and he particularly enjoyed taking the 'stump' and delivering, with nearly perfect exactness, the sermon he had heard on Sunday. He had a great gift for mimicry, and he would deliver the sermon, replete with the gestures and antics of the preacher to the amusement of those around him. His reputation as a sort of backwoods orator spread rapidly throughout the area and he was never lacking an appreciative audience.

Lincoln was also adept at making political speeches so stirring that he drew a crowd each time he mounted the stump. He enjoyed the applause he received and he indulged his gift of expression as often as he could, and much to the dismay of his employer and his father, when he ought to have been working. He detracted everyone and interfered with, not only his own work, but the work of all who heard him. While Lincoln did not know it, he was laying the foundation for his future eminence in public speaking.

Tradition has it that the young Lincoln, who was working in a field for a Mr. Shepherd, hearing a commotion emanating from the Decatur public square, left his plowing and went to see what was going on. On his arrival he found a political speaker making a bombastic ranting speech denouncing the old Whig Party. When the speaker had finished his harangue, Lincoln, thoroughly angered by what he had heard, mounted the stump and lambasted the speaker and denied the allegations which had been made against the Whigs. When he finished the crowd cheered, Lincoln had scored for the Whigs, and impressed his listeners with his ability.

The new statue will be unveiled at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, October 12, 1968 in Lincoln Square, at the place where Lincoln made his first Decatur public speech, and at which time it will be conveyed to the City of Decatur.

Prepared for the Heritage Committee, Inc. by George Cashman, Curator of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois, for the occasion of the Unveiling of the Lincoln Monument in Lincoln Square on October 12, 1968.

Amelia Mulrooney, President

Heritage Committee, Inc.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

COPY

February 4, 1970

Miss Amelia D. Mulrooney
President, Heritage Committee, Inc.
120 Standard Building
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Miss Mulrooney:

Many thanks for your letter of February 2nd. I am delighted to learn about the new Lincoln statue that is located on Lincoln Square in Decatur. I also enjoyed looking at your photographic slide. I am returning it with this letter. I do hope you will send me an 8 x 10 glossy photograph of the statue.

We do ~~have~~ give Boy Scouts a certificate if they visit a Lincoln statue during Lincoln's Birthday Week. I enclose a sample copy. I also enclose some lists of the total number of heroic bronze statues of Lincoln. Is the Decatur statue heroic? I would like to have the dimensions.

I wish it might be possible for me to attend your program on February 12th; however, I have a prior engagement in Washington, D. C.

Thanking you again for the information that you have sent me, I remain

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrw
Enclosures

Form 1463-1-42-100M

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

COPY

February , 1970

Miss Amelia [illegible]
President, Heritage Chemical, Inc.
120 Stanford Building
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Miss McGovern:

Many thanks for your letter of February 2nd. I am enclosing a copy of the new Lincoln State that is located in Lincoln, Illinois, in Decatur. I also enclosed [illegible] of the Decatur Herald, in which [illegible] is the [illegible] photograph of the [illegible].

[illegible] give [illegible] a [illegible] is [illegible] Lincoln [illegible] ing Lincoln's [illegible] need. I enclose a sample copy. I also enclose some lists of the total number of [illegible] of Lincoln. Is the Decatur [illegible] Lincoln.

I wish it might be possible for me to attend your meeting on February 12th; however, I have a prior engagement in [illegible], [illegible].

Thanking you again for the information that you have sent me, I remain

Yours sincerely,

[illegible] McGovern

[illegible]/cvvw
Enclosures

Form 1468-I-42-1-M

# LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE

## DECATUR

## SATURDAY

## FEBRUARY 7, 1970

All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers are invited to participate in a Lincoln Pilgrimage celebration which will start at the Macon County Court House at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7.

Here are the particulars - assembly at the **city parking** lot south of the Macon County Court House at 9:30 a.m. The procession will proceed to the front of the Court House to the Lincoln Statue for a brief ceremony. Following this ceremony, the group will proceed to the Lincoln Statue at the corner of West Main and North Main Streets for the second ceremony. The parade will then go out West Main Street to Millikin University to the Lincoln Statue where the closing ceremony will be held. Proinent Decatur citizens have been secured for short presentations at each statue. The parade will be over about 11:00 a.m.

This is the statue I have reference to.

Each Cub, Scout, Explorer, and leader that participates in this visitation will receive a certificate from the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. The certificates will be available that Saturday and will be given to unit leaders at check in time at the parking lot south of the Court House.

All Cub Packs, Scout Troops, and Explorer Posts should bring their unit and American Flags. The flags will lead the procession.

OTHER LINCOLN STATUES CAN BE VISITED

Lincoln National Life Insurance certificates will be issued to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers that visit a Lincoln Statue in another part of the council area. There are statues in Pana and Charleston. Leaders may obtain the certificates by sending a list of those participating to the council office.

One or more statues must be visited during Scout Week to qualify for a certificate.

the
APR • 70

Rep. Mother Bunchers
getting Girl Scouts
lined up for
ceremony
Feb 12, 1976
Amulanoney

Vestner, Anthony
Decatur, Ill.

DRAWER 21a

Sculptors-V